

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD**

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD,

Complainant,

vs.

CAITLIN BOWER,

Respondent.

Docket Number 2025-0171
Enforcement Activity No. 8091911

ADMISSION ORDER MEMORIALIZING PREHEARING CONFERENCE

Issued: April 28, 2025

By Administrative Law Judge: Honorable Timothy G. Stueve

Appearances:

**Adam Scheetz
Sector St Petersburg**

For the Coast Guard

Caitlin Bower, pro se

For Respondent

On or about February 24, 2025, the United States Coast Guard (USCG or Coast Guard), filed a Complaint against Caitlin Bower (Respondent) alleging Respondent committed misconduct while acting under the authority of Respondent's Merchant Mariner Credential (MMC) as Crew Member aboard the vessel PRIDE OF AMERICA, as required by law or regulation.

The Coast Guard alleges:

1. On February 24, 2025, Respondent was employed by NCL, PRIDE OF AMERICA and subject to NCL (Bahamas) LTD policies.
2. On February 24, 2025, NCL, PRIDE OF AMERICA had a policy prohibiting employees from being intoxicated onboard PRIDE OF AMERICA with a blood alcohol level (BAC) greater than 0.04%.
3. On February 24, 2025, Respondent was intoxicated with a BAC greater than 0.04% while onboard the vessel in violation of NCL, PRIDE OF AMERICA's Drug and Alcohol policy.
4. Respondent's violation of NCL, PRIDE OF AMERICA's Drug and Alcohol policy is Misconduct, as described by 46 U.S.C. § 7703(1)(B) and defined by 46 C.F.R. § 5.27.
5. In Aggravation: Respondent was on duty when found with a BAC over 0.04%

In Respondent's Answer, dated April 15, 2025, Respondent admits to all jurisdictional and factual allegations, as stated in the Complaint. However, Respondent did not check the box in her Answer regarding whether she agreed to the proposed sanction. Therefore, a prehearing conference was held on April 24, 2025.

Prehearing Conference

Turning to the prehearing conference held on April 24, 2025, Mr. Adam Scheetz, Lieutenant, appeared on behalf of the Coast Guard. Caitlin Bower (Respondent) appeared on her

own behalf. As stated above, the purpose of the prehearing conference was to clarify whether the Respondent agreed to the proposed sanction of three (3) months outright suspension in this matter. Specifically, Respondent was unclear on whether she agreed with the proposed sanction or wished to be heard on the proposed order. In the prehearing conference, Respondent did not contest the proposed sanction and agreed to the proposed order of three (3) months outright suspension, with no additional conditions stipulated.

Upon consideration of the record, I hereby find that the allegations in the Complaint are **PROVED BY ANSWER**. I find that on February 24, 2025, Respondent's violation of NCL, PRIDE OF AMERICA's Drug and Alcohol policy is Misconduct, as described by 46 U.S.C. § 7703(1)(B) and defined by 46 C.F.R. § 5.27.

SANCTION

I have carefully reviewed the Complaint and Answer and find that the proposed sanction is appropriate under the provisions of 46 C.F.R. § 5.569.

WHEREFORE,

ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, Respondent's Coast Guard issued MMC is **SUSPENDED OUTRIGHT FOR THREE (3) MONTHS**, commencing the date it was deposited with the Coast Guard.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, service of this decision on the parties and/or parties' representative(s) serves as notice of appeal rights set forth in 33 C.F.R. §§ 20.1001 – 20.1004. (Attachment A).

Done and dated April 28, 2025, at
Alameda, California

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "T. Stueve", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Hon. Timothy G. Stueve
Administrative Law Judge
U.S. Coast Guard